ANDROID™ NETRUNNER™
THE CARD GAME

CRIMSON DUST

For hundreds of years, humanity has looked to the fourth planet, Mars, as a source of mystery and adventure. Once upon a time, stories of little green men and invaders from Mars were the height of science fiction. Such wonder faded as satellites and rovers explored the Martian surface, but Mars never lost its hold on the human imagination. Today, human beings have not only colonized this world, but the colossal task of terraforming the Red Planet is underway. This new, semi-lawless frontier remains one of the most challenging environments for civilization, yet the hardy Martian settlers have managed to defy the odds and thrive.

ORIGINAL HUMANS

Crimson Dust is one of the most dangerous Martian terrorist groups currently active, due in large part to the fanatical devotion of its members. This organization takes the Martian life origin beliefs of the Incipiata Marte Vita sects to violent extremes.

The group's leader, Vasanti Smith, is viewed as a religious messiah for her ability to walk unaided upon the surface of Mars. She is supposedly a recurrence of an "original human"—those "little green men" who supposedly inhabited Mars before traveling several thousand years ago to settle Earth. According to Smith and her believers, Mars is the original homeworld of humans, and instead of terraforming Mars's sacred surface, humans should revert to their original forms. So far, Smith has been moderately successful in recruiting believers to Crimson Dust's cause. The gaps in the records of Mars' early colonization have made it difficult to verify the identity of the Vasanti Smith leading Crimson Dust or her claims.

Whereas other groups rely on exosuits or environmentally sealed hardsuits, many Crimson Dust fighters undergo genetic modification to allow them to survive unaided in Mars's atmosphere. Smith urges her followers to undergo extensive genetic modification and martyr themselves for the cause of Martian independence—for they will be reborn with DNA closer to that of their mythic progenitors.

It is unclear how Crimson Dust obtained the capability to perform this g-modding, although finding the location of their facilities is a high priority for the MSS. Intelligence indicates that the technology was first developed by Jinteki, but the corp is not forthcoming. Although Crimson Dust likely stole the technology directly or purchased the data from runners, the possibility that Jinteki—or a faction within Jinteki—knowingly sold the technique on the black market cannot be ruled out.

Although the g-mods do provide substantial advantage during combat situations outside of the domes—and in case of a breach—it is also, in many ways, more costly and resource-intensive than using traditional technology.

In addition to using guerrilla and sabotage tactics such as bombing government and corp terraforming facilities, Crimson Dust targets Martian civilians and political leaders who do not support its beliefs or efforts. Crimson Dust's tactics also include suicide bombings, which showcase the fanatical devotion of the group's adherents. Suicide bombers utilizing micro-explosives, improvised meta-fuel devices, or Taejo monofilament wire bombs have proven difficult to detect or stop, and they are capable of inflicting tremendous damage

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